Patent for Indian Food

1875. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain countries have put their claim for patent before World Trade Organisation of some specific eatables of Indian food after Basmati Rice and Turmeric;

(b) if so, the names of those countries together with items claimed for patent; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No information regarding claims for patent, world-wide, is maintained by the Government. However, patents are granted by respective governments under their patent laws.

(c) Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether grant of patent can be challenged.

Infrastructure Facility in Moradabad

†1876. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had given its consent to enhance infrastructure facility in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether an amount of Rs. 20 crores was to be given towards this in addition to partial amount made available by the Centre;

(c) whether State has already sanctioned its share of Rs. 12.28 crores for electricity;

(d) if so, by when the Central Government are going to release Rs. 12.00 crores towards roads and remaining amount of Rs. 8.00 crores; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme the Central Govenment has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 008.00 crores as its share towards the System (Power) Improvement scheme at Moradabad. The total cost of the project is Rs. 20.28 crores. The Central Government has already released its share to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The State Government of U.P. have informed that they have released the State's share of Rs. 12.28 crores for the project.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Rise in Export Growth Rate

1877. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rise in India's export growth during October-November 1999;

(b) whether it has resulted in a lower trade deficit during April-Novemebr 1999, as compared to the same period of the previous year; *

(c) if so, what was the growth percentage in October-November in dollar and rupee term;

(d) whether our import during April-November 1999 registered any higher growth rate as compared to previous year, particularly in oil import; and

(e) if so, what are the estimated figurs of import, both in terms of dollar and rupee during April-November, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data there is rise in India's export growth during October 1999. It has resulted in lower trade deficit during April-October, 1999 as compared to the same period of the previous year.

(c) The growth percentage in October, 1999 in exports is 21.65% in US $ terms and 24.85% in Rupee terms and in imports is 15.45% in US $ terms and 18.49% in Rupees terms.